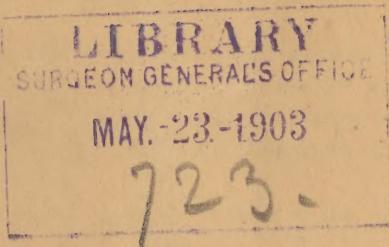


Ironwick (A.M.)

Hippocratic oath.



HIPPOCRATIC OATH.*

BY A. M. TRAWICK, M.D.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Hippocrates, born on the Island of Cos, B. C. 460, was the most celebrated physician of antiquity. He belonged to the *Æsclepiadæ*—being the seventeenth in descent from *Æsculapius*. He received his instruction in medicine from his father and from Herodicus. Besides being a practitioner of medicine, he was a great philosopher. After spending some years in traveling through Greece, he settled and practiced his profession at Cos, finally, at about the age of eighty, dying at Larissa. Hippocrates was guided in his profession by the highest principles of honor and humanity. The Hippocratic oath, the formula of which is ascribed to him, bound all who sought to practice the noble healing art in the most rigorous bonds of honor and brotherhood. (Text of oath omitted).

After practicing medicine for more than a score of years, and studying men almost as much as medicine, and noting the motives that prompt the actions of men in connection with the practice of medicine, and in studying this in connection with the Hippocratic oath, I am able to reach some conclusions:

1. Hippocrates, in the opening sentence of the oath, recognized the divine source of the power to heal.
2. The sacredness of the oath, which involves the idea of a professional obligation, is indicated by his appealing to the gods by name as witnesses to his supreme purpose to hold aloft the highest standard.
3. We also are made to realize his recognition of the high position occupied by the medical preceptor, and the reverence due him as one who conveys the knowledge of the high art.
4. Hippocrates emphasized the obligation to transmit a knowledge of medicine and the power to heal to those who are qualified both by ability and principle to use such knowledge rightly.
5. He brings out the sacredness of life, and the obligation of a physician to save and preserve it by proper treatment.
6. This physician of ancient times showed his deep conviction of moral obligations to restrain and keep under control the power conferred upon him and his profession, which might be used to the injury of others.

*Read before the Tennessee State Medical Society, Nashville, April 11, 1899.

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7. The highest ideal of both *personal* and *professional* life is held up to view.

8. When called in counsel by a brother physician, I should treat him as my host.

9. When I call a brother physician in counsel, I should treat him as my guest.

10. There is a clear recognition of the limitations of the departments of medical and surgical professions respectively, and an expression of an honest purpose to *keep within those limits*. In this we find the primal elements of an ethical system which has come down to us through the centuries.

11. Hippocrates not only realized, but urged, the sacredness of the physician's trust, and his duty to preserve inviolate the purity and sanctity of the patient's home.

12. The sacredness of professional secrets is incorporated in this oath, especially those secrets the divulging of which would be injurious to the honor and reputation of the patient.

13. The reward which comes from right living, and the inevitable consequences of wrongdoing, are set forth, together with the privilege of enjoying the one or a willingness to abide by the results growing out of a life spent in the service of others.

14. That if these obligations were binding upon a man living in an unenlightened age, they press with the greater responsibility upon us, and are the more binding upon those in the practice of a great profession which has become illuminated and exalted by the Christian ideals of the nineteenth century.

15. We should, therefore, thoroughly study the word selfishness, and should abstain from every appearance of such a hideous characteristic. And in close connection with selfishness, but far more damning to the best qualities of the physician's life, stands that most to be dreaded of all evils—jealousy. The jealous man of all others carries the marks plainly to be read and known of all men, that he is the smallest man in the entire community, and is more to be pitied than feared.

16. To sum it all up in a few words: We must remember that the physician comes in the closest and most sacred relations of life. He sees men and women in their hours of weakness; sees them when judgment and will are overthrown by disease; sees them when the intellect is so shattered and enfeebled by disease that its mastery is lost, and ignoble passions rule unchecked and unrestrained, and there is, therefore, an imperious necessity that he should be a man of sterling integrity and stainless purity—chaste as the untrodden and unsunned snow.—*Memphis Medical Monthly*.

The baby, like the poor,

"we have always with us," and at this particular season of the year the mites of humanity commence to take on an importance in inverse proportion to their age and size.

During the months of June, July and August, pediatrics becomes more than ever, the general practitioner's specialty, as his clientele consists largely of infants and children suffering from the various forms of gastro-intestinal disease, incident to the heated term. That a large majority of these cases depend upon an etiological factor of a bacteriological nature has been amply demonstrated, more recently by Booker, Baginsky and Lesage. This fundamental fact being once accepted, it follows that the key to successful treatment consists in bowel antisepsis. It is manifestly impossible, however, to render the bowel aseptic while fermentable food is being administered; therefore, milk and milk foods should be rigorously interdicted for a time, and calomel in fractional doses, or some similar agent, should be given to sweep out fermenting detritus.

The question of Nutrition then comes up, and here is where **Liquid Peptonoids** is, for several reasons, of such paramount value.

1st. It is a nutritious fluid food.

2nd. It is completely peptonized and entirely absorbed by the stomach, thus leaving no detritus for the bowel to dispose of.

3rd. It is sufficiently stimulating to combat prostration.

4th. It is **absolutely aseptic.**

Aside from these advantages, Liquid Peptonoids is eminently palatable—a point of importance when dealing with children.

Elimination, Nutrition and Asepsis being thus provided for, the question of more active antisepsis arises. When an efficient intestinal antiseptic is indicated, why not give Liquid Peptonoids with Creosote, thus combining aseptic food with antiseptic remedy? The dose of Liquid Peptonoids for children varies from one-half to one teaspoonful every one to three hours, in accordance with the age of the child, the severity of the case and the amount of prostration present. Liquid Peptonoids with Creosote should be given in smaller doses, i. e., about one-half teaspoonful four times a day, somewhat diluted.

Samples upon request.

THE ARLINGTON CHEMICAL CO.,
YONKERS, N. Y.

Suggestions for Framing the Accompanying Panel.

In order that the very best and most artistic results may be obtained in the mounting and framing of the "Hippocratic Oath," we advise a frame of about one inch in width, of antique oak of a very dark color, preferably a very dark green. The wide margin should be cut down in framing to about one inch all around, and the whole should be treated in such a way as to convey the impression of age. A mat should not be used; but in case a wide margin is desired, it is advisable that the subject be cut out and mounted on a colored ground harmonizing with the frame.

These suggestions, offered for the physician's consideration, have been endorsed by a well-known artist.

THE ARLINGTON CHEMICAL COMPANY, Yonkers, N. Y.

